

Multitopic Household Survey 2007 in Bulgaria

Technical Report

I. TNS BBSS MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

TNS BBSS executed the MTHS 07 survey in Bulgaria in collaboration and under the overall technical supervision of the team of WB/ OSI. The main tasks of TNS BBSS were:

- Questionnaire translation and preparation
- Pilot survey execution
- Field force selection and training
- Samples' selection
- Fieldwork execution
- Data entry & processing
- Delivery of final dataset in SPSS

II. PREPARATION

1. Translation and Formatting of the Questionnaire

The initial draft of the questionnaire was translated and formatted in a way that allowed retaining the same translation and formatting in the sections that followed the pattern of **MTHS '03**.

As for the remaining parts, the results and reports of the interviewers from the first pilot survey were used in order to find the most appropriate solutions. Additional corrections were made during the training in the Bulgarian version, and in certain cases in the English version. The final version of the translation and formatting that was used in the field work, was prepared after the training of supervisors and interviewers in Sofia.

Partial problems with certain questions were established in the course of the field work, and they were resolved by adding new instructions in stead of modifying the basic questionnaire.

2. Sample Design

The sample design of **MTHS '07** was to ensure

- A national and regional representative sample of households with volume of 4300 units;
- Two booster minority samples (for respondents of Turkish and Roma ethnic groups) with a volume that guarantees that the consolidated sample of Roma and Turkish households identified in the main sample and the households from the booster minority samples will have a volume of no less than 900 units each.

2.1. Main Sample

In compliance with the requirements as laid down in the TOR and striving to bring the structure of the main sample as close to replicating the one of **MTHS '03** as possible, we chose the option to work with a sample of 860 sampling points, with 5 effective interviews to be conducted in each one, thus ensuring ultimately a volume of the effective main sample of 4 300 households.

After a careful study of data bases available in the country, of their quality and of the possibility to buy a sample from the institutions possessing them, our choice came down to the General Directorate Civil Registration and Administrative Servicing (CRAS), which was in possession of the most up-to-date and validated data and was willing to prepare the sample we needed, provided that the service would not be in breach of the Protection of Personal Data Act (i.e. it should not include names).

For each of the 28 regions in the country it selects:

- N_i sampling points (electoral sections), where N_i is a value proportional to the share of the district in the universum of households, thus $\sum N_i = 860$;

- The selection of the sampling points in each of the 28 regions is with a probability proportional to their size (the number of household in each of them);
- A simple lottery method is applied in each of the selected sampling points to select 5 main and three reserve households, to be identified through the address of the house (The Protection of Personal Data Act, in effect for several years now, does not allow any further personification).

To realize this model, the data base of the election lists of voters, validated by CRAS for the purposes of the presidential elections held in October, 2006, had to be transformed in the following way:

- 1) The election sections that were located in hospitals, prisons, military units were taken out of the lists;
- 2) The remaining voters lists by sections were transformed from lists of names of voters residing on the territory covered by the section, into lists of unique residential (i.e. household) addresses.

An exhaustive data base of unique household addresses was developed as a result of this transformation.

This sampling model generated a national and regional self-weighting sample.

2.2. Minority Booster Samples

The Turkish and Roma households, identified in the main sample, form the basis for the minority booster samples.

The algorithm is as follows:

The address of a Turkish or Roma household identified in the main sample, is taken for starting address, from which, by following a step of 4 in ascending order of address

numbers in the street or in a block of flats, the next address is identified, where an interview should be conducted with a household if it represents the same ethnic group. And if it does not, the same step is applied to proceed to the end of the street and then turn to the right. Three additional households are sought for the purposes of the booster sample against each Roma household from the main sample and 2 for the Turkish households.

In case that with three consecutive systematically selected addresses the method did not hit a household of the same ethnic group, the systematic selection is terminated (this happens in cases where the household from the main sample lives among other ethnic groups).

3. Field Force Selection

The management team of the project:

- Zhivko Georgiev - Project Manager
- Milkana Nikolova - Senior Research and Client Communicaton
- Evelina Stancheva - Administrative Coordination
- Ivan Ganchev - Fieldwork Project Manager
- Peter Grigorov - IT Project Manager
- Maya Barbanakova - Preliminary Data and Fieldwork Control Manager

For the fieldwork we also selected

- 6 regional supervisors
- 68 interviewers.

The following criteria were applied in the selection of supervisors:

- previous experience as supervisors in projects like MTHS or similar;
- resident of a regional center, which would allow them to exercise direct control of the field work in the whole region the supervisor was in charge of.

The following criteria were applied in the selection of interviewers:

- previous experience in surveys of the type of MTHS;
- availability to work at least 3 months intensively on the specific survey;
- experience of work with ethnic minority groups, like Roma and Turkish (relevant mainly for the regions with multi-ethnic population);
- distributed by regions proportionately to the expected total volume of work (main sample + booster).

The team for data entering was staffed in a way to include the most experienced assistants we have. Certain changes were made in the course of the field work.

- 4 additional regional supervisors were trained and included in the work with the aim of improving the control and coping with the delay, caused by the fact that the initial 6 supervisors could not exercise efficient control on the survey process in the more remote regions;
- 7 interviewers were dismissed, and 6 could not participate sufficiently actively due to personal or family reasons. New 13 interviewers were therefore trained and included in the work.

4. Training

The training of the interviewers and supervisors who participated in the survey was delivered in Sofia in the period 14 – 24 March - 68 interviewers and 6 supervisors were included in it.

The training was delivered by Diane Steele (WB) and Zhivko Georgiev, project manager on the part of BBSS Gallop, Bulgaria. Representatives of 'OSI', Bulgaria were also included in the final part of the training.

Alongside with the detailed familiarization with the objectives, organization, allocation of responsibilities and methodology of the survey, the trainees also participated in pilot interviewing followed by discussion of problem case studies.

The active involvement of the participants in discussions on the tools helped in fine-tuning and specifying many of the questions and their relevance. As a result, the wording of the questions and instructions was adjusted.

The training ended with a pilot survey, in which every interviewer had to conduct an interview in his/her region.

Upon the completion of the training the supervisors and interviewers were given detailed written instructions on the implementation of **MTHS '07**.

III. FIELDWORK

1. Time schedule

The fieldwork on the main sample started at the end of April, 2007. The number of interviews finalized by months was as follows:

- April - 178 (4.1%)
- May - 898 (20.9%)
- June - 1821 (42.3%)

- July - 1295 (30.1%)
- August - 108 (2.5%).

May, June and July were the months when most of the field work - 93.4% of the finalized interviews – was carried out.

In spite of our efforts to finish by 30.July we still had to do some work in August because of the presence of inaccessible or non-cooperative households in the sample.

The work on the ethnic boosters started after 15 June in the regions where the teams had already completed 90% of the main sample. 99.8% of the work on the ethnic boosters was carried out in July/August.

2. Quality Assurance of the Fieldwork

The supervisors of the project were assigned with the task to perform direct quality control functions.

According to the instructions, they exercised control on the strict observance of the sample, the substitution of inaccessible respondents with reserve addresses, the first logical check of filled out questionnaires, control of the field work of the interviewers.

The second level of quality assurance of the field work was performed by the central office.

The project manager Zhivko Georgiev made 41 control visits across the country, to observe the work of 41 interviewers. Representatives of the World Bank made three control visits as well.

- Mr. Gero Carletto – to Razgrad, Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Plovdiv, Sofia;
- Mrs. Boryana Gocheva – in Sofia;
- Mr. Lire Ersado – to Pleven, Haskovo, Sliven, Plovdiv, Pazardjik.

Six of the interviewers were dismissed as a result of these visits. The instructions were further improved. Control of the fieldwork quality was also exercised in the process of data entering and validating. 318 of the filled out questionnaires were returned for further verification and clarification with the interviewed households.

The following main problems were established in the work of the interviewers and had to be addressed:

- A desire to speed up the interview, in order to make it shorter (at the expense of seeking for a more meaningful answer of the respondent);
- Illegible filling out of the questionnaire;
- A desire to “spare the time and effort” of the head of the family (usually a man) at the expense of his wife or another woman (typically more collaborative);
- A desire to complete the interview in one visit, even at the expense of quality of data obtained under the last modules of the questionnaire, which are more burdensome for the respondents.

Measures were undertaken to reduce these deficiencies (including sanctions and incentives), and then, in the course of the work the interviewers gained experience, which allowed them to better control the dynamics of communication with the respondents.

3. Implementation of the Main Sample

To implement the main sample, which had a volume of 4300 effective interviews (5 in each one of 860 sampling points), a total of 5849 addresses were used (4300 primary, plus 1549 reserve ones). The following reasons accounted for the substitution of primary with reserve addresses /households:

A) Problems with the address – a total of 465 cases

- Non-existent address 113
- The house has been demolished (and construction works going on the site) 18
- The address is not full enough to identify the household 146
- Uninhabited house 155
- The house is used for non-residential purposes (office. etc) 33

B) Contacts were not established – a total of 418 cases

- The household members were not present during the survey 234
- The house was inhabited but there were obstacles hindering the establishment of contacts with a member of the household 147
- The household was identified but it was impossible to conduct an interview (too old people, sick people, etc.) 37

C) Refusals – a total of 637 cases (12.7% of the contacts)

- Flat/absolute refusal 484
- Agreed visits, but subsequent refusal to give an interview 96
- The interview started but subsequently the respondent refused to finish it 57

D) Conducted interviews – a total of 4329

29 of which were cancelled due to poor quality of the work of the interviewer or very contradictory and questionable information.

A substitution of primary household with a reserve one would be undertaken after a minimum of three attempts to agree on the start or completion of an already started interview.

4. Refusals

The distribution of all 637 refusals by region and type of settlement is shown in Appendix 3. Refusals that were at a rate higher than the country average were mostly in:

- Sofia-city, the regions of Plovdiv, Pleven and Stara Zagora;
- The capital city and the regional centers.

In the cases where the interviewers succeeded in conducting interviews that recorded key social and demographic characteristics of the heads of the household (461 of all 637 cases of refusal), the following dependencies were established:

- Men would refuse to give an interview much more frequently (67.4%) than women (32.6%);
- In terms of age bracket and educational background they were equally distributed among all groups;
- There is a trend of overrepresentation of respondents of Bulgarian and Roma ethnic background, while with the Turkish ethnic group the probability for refusal is definitely smaller.

The reports of the interviewers show that in the large cities (Sofia, Plovdiv, Varna, Burgas, Stara Zagora) a considerable portion of the flat refusals (including refusals to answer the short questionnaire for the head of the household) were recorded with households, which belonged to the upper middle and high class, according to the criteria “outside appearance of the house”, “residential area”.

5. Implementation of the Ethnic Boosters

The implemented booster of Roma households has a volume of 672 cases. By integrating it with the Roma households cases identified in the main sample, we have a consolidated sample of 982 Roma households.

The Turkish booster covers 568 cases. Together with the 349 Turkish household identified in the main sample, they form a consolidated sample of 917 Turkish households.

The rate of refusals in the two ethnic boosters is respectively:

- Roma households - 4.1% of all established contacts;
- Turkish households - 6.7%.

IV. DATA ENTRY & DELIVERABLES

1. General Procedures

Data entry was accomplished with the software PDE – developed and owned by TNS-Bulgaria. The following actions were undertaken to prevent errors in data entry:

- Each interview, apart from having a unique sampling point and number, was given a unique number among all interviews, which facilitates the tracking of the questionnaires and allows a double check for identity;
- Besides from a serial number each sampling point was given an additional field with the code of the respective settlement according the National Classificator for the purpose of identification and identity check;

- The description of variables in PDE corresponds to the titles in the questionnaire. A narrative text/description is ensured for each variable in order to facilitate data entry and prevent errors;
- Training was delivered to all persons involved in data entering, together with a test entry of 10 fictitious interviews prepared for this purpose, followed by discussion of the problems encountered;
- All questions coming from the field were subject to logical checks by a specially trained team, with a view to establishing the validity of data. Where necessary, additional consultations were held and issues clarified on the field;
- Range checks for each variable were programmed in the data entry software in the process of description of the questionnaire. In case of establishing invalid data, it could still be entered by marking the discrepancy for further check by the team in the office;
- The logical interdependencies between the values of the current variable and variables entered in previous or in the same block were also programmed. Where a discrepancy was established, a message would appear, requiring verification of the values in all interdependent variables. In the event of logical discrepancy, the data could be entered, while marking the discrepancy for further decision to be made by the team in the office;
- The program contained models for omitting of variables/blocks depending on the logical conditions underlying the questionnaire and the answers given by the respondent to questions from the previous blocks;
- Opportunity was provided for corrections when a formally truthful, but logically invalid value was established in already entered variables after the check of the questionnaire;

- Another possibility that was provided was to spring across sections of the questionnaire for the purpose of checks and analyses;
- All open-ended questions were coded in advance by specially developed type classifications during the logical check of the questionnaires in order to prevent errors in data entry. All type classifications were regularly reviewed in order to establish answers that were duplicate in meaning but had been given different codes;
- Upon receiving the entered data at the office, 8% randomly selected cards were checked for correspondence between entered data and the content of the questionnaire;
- All entered records were again subjected to a logical check after they were received at the office, with a specially designed program. When discrepancies were established a specially trained team would undertake corrective actions.

2. Description of Main Checks

Section 1: Dwelling, utilities and durable goods

- If the household lives in an apartment or a dwelling at a student/workers' hostel (Question 1, codes 3, 4), the construction materials of the building should be different from stone, adobe and wood (Question 2, codes 4, 5, 6).
- If the household lives in an apartment or dwelling at a student/workers' hostel (Question 1, codes 3, 4), the dwelling is not supposed to have a cesspit (Question 7, code 5).
- If the dwelling does not have a water main (Question 7, code 1), it certainly does not have running hot water (Question 7, code 2).

- If the dwelling has electricity supply (Question 7, code 3), the household's annual expenses for electricity or the cost of the donated service should be specified (Section 13C, code 210, questions 3, 5).
- For all heating sources that are in use (Question 9), should be specified the respective cost of monthly expenses.
- If the household has used central heating during the heating season (Question 9, code 1), the annual expenses for central heating or the cost of the donated service should be specified (Section 13C, code 208, Questions 3, 5).
- If the household has used electricity-based heating for the heating season (Question 9, code 2), the annual expenses for electricity or the cost of the donated service should be specified (Section 13C, code 210, questions 3,5).
- If the household has used liquid fuels during the heating season (Question 9, code 3), the annual expenses for liquid fuels or the cost of the donated service should be specified (Section 13C, code 212, Questions 3, 5).
- If the household has used gas during the heating season (Question 9, code 4), the annual expenses for gas or the cost of the donated service should be specified (Section 13C, code 211, Questions 3,5).
- If the household has used coal during the heating season (Question 9, code 5), the annual expenses for coal or the cost of the donated coal should be specified (Section 13C, code 214, Questions 3,5).
- If the household has used wood during the heating season with specified monthly expenses (Question 9, code 6), the annual expenses for wood or the cost of the donated wood should be specified (Section 13C, code 213, Questions 3,5).
- If the household had telephone expenses (fixed line) for the past month (Question 17, code 3), it presumably has a fixed line telephone (Question 24, code 116).

- If the household had cell phone expenses for the past month (Question 17, code 4), it presumably has a mobile phone (Question 24, code 117).
- If the household does not have/ does not use a mobile phone (Question 24, code 117), it must not have monthly expenses for mobile phone/services (Question 24, code 4), or expenses for the last 30 days (Section 13 C. code 227).
- If the household has a mobile phone (Question 24, code 117) and has had mobile telephony expenses for the last 30 days (Section 13C, code 227), these expenses should not exceed the last monthly expenses, specified under Question 17, code 4.
- At least one of each kind of objects possessed/used by the household (Question 24) should be described in questions 26, 27 and 28 (for how long the household has been in possession/has used the object, how it was acquired and a potential price in case of sale).

Section 2: Household roster

- The members of the household aged under 12 must have marital status “never have been married” (Question 6, code 1).
- The members of the household aged under 16 should not be servants in the household (Question 3, code 8).
- A member of the household with the status of Spouse/Partner (Question 3, code 2) should have a marital status of “Married” or “Cohabiting” (Question 6, codes 2,5).
- In case the marital status of a member of the household is “Married” or “Cohabiting” (Question 6, codes 2,5) and the partner lives in the household (Question 7, code 1), the respective given code of the respondent (partner) should be entered into the description of the household with the respective sex.

- In case one or two parents of the respondent live in the household (Questions 8,9), the respective given code of the respondent (parent) should be entered in the description of the household with the respective sex, that is the codes given for question 8 should answer to the described male in the household (question 2, code 1) and respectively for question 9 – female (question 2, code 2).
- Members of the household (Question 15, code 1) are considered to be persons having lived in the household for at least 3 of the last 12 months (Question 12). Exception is made for the head of the household, new spouse, children under 16 who study elsewhere and children under 3 months of age; they are always regarded as members of the household.
- The sum of the months over the last 12, spent by the person in the household (Question 12) and the months spent abroad (Section 3, question 10), should be 12.

Section 3: Migration

- 1) The year when a member of the household started to live in a town/city (Question 1), cannot precede his/her year of birth (Section 1, question 4).
- 2) The year when a member of the household migrated abroad (Question 12) cannot precede his/her year of birth (Section 1, question 4).

Section 5b: Education - general

- If a member of the household holds a University Degree/ PhD (Question 4, code 1), he/she is apparently over 27 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household holds a University Degree, Master's Degree (Question 4, code 2), he/she is apparently over 22 years of age (Section 1, question 4)

- If a member of the household holds a University Degree, Bachelor's Degree (Question 4, code 3), he/she is apparently over 21 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household holds a College Diploma, Vocational Training Certificate (Question 4, code 4), he/she is apparently over 20 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household has completed secondary education (special, vocational and technical, high school) or vocational and technical school (Question 4, codes 5,6,7,8), he/she is apparently over 16 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household has completed primary education (Question 4, code 9), he/she is apparently over 12 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household has completed elementary school (Question 4, code 10), he/she is apparently over 9 years of age (Section 1, question 4).
- If a member of the household has not attended school (Question 4, code 12), he/she is not supposed to have continued his/her education at a higher level (Question 5, code 1).
- If a member of the household with completed elementary education (Question 4, code 10) has continued to study at a higher level, the respective level should be primary (Question 5, code 3).
- If a member of the household with completed primary education (Question 4, code 9) has continued to study at a higher level, the respective level should be secondary or vocational and technical (Question 5, code 4,5).
- If a member of the household with completed secondary education (special, vocational and technical, high school) or vocational and technical education (Question 4, code 5,6,7,8) has continued to study at a higher level, the respective

level should be college, vocational training, Bachelor's degree or Master's Degree (Question 5, code 6,7,8).

- If a member of the household with completed college education/vocational training (Question 4, code 4) has continued to study at a higher level, the respective level should be college/vocational training, Bachelor's Degree or Master's Degree (Question 5, code 6,7,8).
- If a member of the household with completed Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree or PhD (Question 4, code 1,2,3) has continued to study at a higher level, the respective level should be college/vocational training, Bachelor's Degree, Master's Degree or PhD (Question 5, code 6,7,8,9).
- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at an elementary or primary educational level (Question 5, codes 2,3), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 4.
- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at a vocational and technical or secondary educational level (Question 5, codes 4,5), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 5.
- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at a college/vocational training level (Question 5, codes 6), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 3.
- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at a university/Bachelor's Degree programme (Question 5, codes 7), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 4.
- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at a university/Master's Degree programme (Question 5, codes 8), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 5.

- If a member of the household has continued his/her education at a PhD level (Question 5, codes 9), the respective completed years in this level have to be between 0 and 2.
- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), the year (grade, year) in which he/she is at the moment (Question 9 – year) should be higher than the years completed in the respective educational level (Question 5 – year).
- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), and is a student at a elementary school grade (Question 9, code 1) the educational establishment he/she attends cannot be university (Question 10, code 14).
- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), and is a student at a primary school grade (Question 9, code 2) the educational establishment he/she attends cannot be a elementary school (1-4 grade) and university (Question 10, code 1,14).
- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), and is a student at vocational and technical school (Question 9, code 3) the educational establishment he/she attends cannot be elementary school (1-4 grade), primary school (1-8) and university (Question 10, code 1,2,14).
- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), and is a student at a secondary school grade (Question 9, code 4) the educational establishment he/she attends cannot be elementary school (1-4 grade), primary school (1-8), lower secondary school (5-8 grade) and university (Question 10, code 1,2,3,14).

- If a member of the household currently attends an educational establishment (Question 6, code 1), and is a student at college/Bachelor's Degree programme, Master's Degree programme or PhD programme (Question 9, code 5,6,7,8) the educational establishment he/she attends is presumably a university (Question 10, code 14).

Section 6: Health

- If a member of the household has a medical insurance (Question 3, code 1), the possible reason for not going to preventive examinations or tests for his/her health condition over the past 12 months (Question 7, code 2) cannot be "I do not have medical insurance." (Question 8, code 6).
- The described health expenses of members of the household for the past month (Question 38) cannot exceed the health expenses for the past year (Question 39).
- If a member of the household had to buy medicines for the past four weeks (Question 32) and was able to buy at least some of them (Question 33, codes 2,3,4), the person is supposed to have described medicines expenses for the past month (Question 38 – medicines).
- If a member of the household has had health expenses for medicines over the past 12 months (Question 39 – medicines), in Section 13C (Consumption – expenses for non-food goods) should be described medicine expenses (Section 13C, code 221).

Section 7B: Monthly activities

- If a member of the household has worked at a second job for certain period of the past 12 months, for the said period he/she should have worked at a main job as well.

- If a member of the household has worked at a main job for certain period of the past 12 months, he/she cannot have given the same period as one during which he/she “Has not worked, but has been looking for a job” or “Has not worked and has not been looking for a job”.
- If a member of the household has not worked, but has been looking for a job over certain period of time of the last 12 months, he/she cannot have given the same period as one during which he/she “has not worked and has not been looking for a job”.

Section 7C,D: Occupation during the past 7 days

- For every member of the household who has worked for the past 7 days, the respective activities carried out during the period should be described in Section 7C. In case the person has been busy with more than one activity for the said period, they should be prioritised – “Activity with the biggest number of working hours”, “Activities with the second biggest number of working hours” and “All other activities” (Question 6, codes 1,2,3).
- The activity, named under Section 7C as an activity with the biggest number of working hours (Question 6, code 1), should be described in Section 17D as the Main Job over the past 7 days (Questions – 1 to 28).
- If in section 7C a member of the household has named a second job that he/she has been involved in over the past 7 days (Question 6, code 3), the respective activity should be described in Section 7D as Second Job over the past 7 days (Questions – 29 to 35).
- The activities named in Section 7C as “All other activities” (Section 6, code 3) should be described in Section 7E (Employment over the past 12 months).

Section 8: Pension, aid and benefits

- All members of the household giving the main reason for not seeking a job for the last month the fact they are retired (Section 7A, Question 10, code 3), should be described as people who receive a pension in Section 8.

Section 9b: Non-farm household enterprises

- 1) In case the household has been involved in non-farm household enterprise, at least one member of the household should be hired in the company (Question 8).
- The number of the household members recruited in the company (Question 8) should not exceed the total number of members of the household, described in Section 2 (Household Roster).
- The profit of the non-farm household enterprise for the last 12 months (Question 14) cannot exceed the company's total gross revenue for the said period (Question 11).

Section 10A: Agriculture

- In case the household has been engaged in agricultural activity (land cultivation) for every cultivated culture the sum of the sold, given away to other people as payment for the rented land, used for livestock feed, given to relatives and friends, given to season workers, consumed in the household and the quantity of the said culture kept in storage, should be equal to the quantity of the produced culture (the sum of quantity given to Questions 4,6,7,8,9,10,11 is presumably equal to the quantity given in Question 3).
- If for the given cultivated culture there is specified quantity in the box "Given to other people as payment for rented land" (Question 4), at least one of the plots described in Section 10A should be defined as taken on lease (Section 10A, Question 6, code 2).

- If the household produces eggs (Section 10C, question 8, code 1), it presumably keeps hens (Section 10C, question 2, code 7).
- If the household produces milk products (milk, cheese, yellow cheese, butter, yoghurt) (Section 10C, question 8, codes 2,3,4,5,6) it presumably keeps dairy livestock (cows, sheep, goats) (Section 10C, question 2, codes 1,5,6).
- If the household produces meat (Section 10C, question 8, code 7), it presumably keeps some of the respective livestock (cows, oxen, bulls, calves, sheep, lambs, hens, chickens, horses, donkeys, rabbits) (Section 10C, question 2, codes 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,11).
- If the household produces wool (Section 10C, question 8, code 8), it presumably keeps sheep and/or goats (Section 10C, question 2, codes 5,6).
- If the household produces leather (Section 10C, question 8, code 9), it presumably keeps some of the respective animals (cows, oxen, bulls, calves, swine, sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, rabbits) (Section 10C, question 2, codes 1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,11).
- If the household produces honey (Section 10C, question 8, code 10), it presumably has beehives (Section 10C, question 2, code 10).
- The number of the members of the household, hired in the farming activity (constantly or on a part-time basis) cannot exceed the number of the household members described in Section 2 (Household Roster).

Section 11: Remittances from previous household members

- The year in which a person, who has been living for a long time outside the household, first moved abroad (Question 8), presumably cannot come after the year in which the person went abroad for the first time (Question 7).

- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of higher education/ PhD programme (Question 12, code 1), the respective completed academic years at this level should vary between 0 and 2.
- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of higher education/ Master's Degree programme (Question 12, code 2), the respective completed academic years at this level should vary between 0 and 5.
- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of higher education/ Bachelor's Degree programme (Question 12, code 3), the respective completed academic years at this level should vary between 0 and 5.
- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of college/vocational training (Question 12, code 4), the respective completed school years at this level should vary between 0 and 3.
- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of secondary education (special, vocational and technical, high school) or vocational and technical school (Question 12, code 5,6,7,8), the respective completed school years at this level should vary between 0 and 5.
- If a person, described in this section has completed certain educational level of elementary or primary education (Question 12, code 9,10), the respective completed school years at this level should vary between 0 and 4.
- If a person, described in this section has not completed elementary education (Question 12, code 11), the respective completed school years at this level should vary between 0 and 4.

Section 13: Consumption

- If the household did not use to purchase certain product for the past month (Section 13B, question 2) it presumably has not bought the same product for the 12 months of the past year (Section 13B, question 6).
- If a member of the household has purchased cigarettes and tobacco products for the past 7 days (Section 13A, question 1, code 1) there are presumably smokers in the household (Section 6, question 34) and the annual tobacco consumption should be described in Section 13B (code 175).
- If a member of the household has had transport expenses (tickets, taxi costs, etc) for the past 7 days (Section 13A, question 1, code 4), the annual expenses for fuel, spare parts, vehicle repair and/or transport services should be described (Section 13C, codes 224, 225).
- If the household has described annual expenses for transport vehicles (passenger cars, motorbikes, bicycles, etc) and/or fuel, spare parts, repair of vehicles (Section 13C, codes 223,224), the household presumably possesses/ uses a transport vehicle (bicycle, motorbike, scooter, passenger car, minivan, jeep, truck, yacht, boat) (Section 1, question 24, codes 118,119,120,121,122).
- If the household has described expenses for mobile phones / services for the past 30 days (Section 13C, code 227), the cell phone monthly expenses have to be specified (Section 1, question 17, code 4).

V. COMMENTS ON DATA QUALITY

The reports of the interviewers and the logical checks show that most of the modules of the questionnaire posed no problems for the respondents and were not a reason for refusal to answer and there is a high extent of probability that the information collected on them is truthful.

This is particularly so as regards the following modules:

- Dwelling and durable goods;
- Composition of the household;
- Migration;
- Persons basically rearing the children;
- Education – pre-school;
- Education - comprehensive;
- Health status;

And to a great extent the following modules:

- Employment;
- Non-agricultural activities of the household;
- Amounts transferred by members of the household;
- Other incomes.

The main problems identified with the primary information relate to:

- With the 'Social Assistance' module it was necessary to validate most of the primary data due to mismatch between the official names of the presently existing social welfare transfers and the colloquial names used by their beneficiaries, in which case terms like 'pensions', 'assistance', 'benefits' often overlap.

- The interviewers' reports show that comprehension problems occurred mostly with the module '**Subjective beliefs and perceptions**', mostly with the questions surveying the subjective attitudes to different models of the social security and pension systems. The reason for this lack of understanding was not in the language in which the questions were put, but in the extremely low level of knowledge and intellectual interest in these issues (typical not only for people with low educational level, but also for highly educated young people).
- The interviewers were left with the impression that the respondents were most reluctant to give frank answers to questions requiring information about:
 - ✓ Incomes from business or another informal source (most typical for the wealthier and Roma respondents);
 - ✓ Migration abroad, if not legal;
 - ✓ Money transfers received in the households from abroad;
 - ✓ Income from rentals and sales.
- The Roma respondents, with whom presenting themselves as poor people is a well developed strategy of behavior (in order to safeguard their access to social assistance) thus conceal not just income, but employment (in the informal sectors), as well as certain expenses and possessions. Most probably in module '**Consumption**' this tendency has resulted in understatement of the real values.
- The checks made in module 'Consumption' have revealed the following tendencies:
 - ✓ In individual cases with products of seasonable pattern of consumption, we have registered overstatement or understatement of the average monthly consumption data (this refers mainly to certain fruits, beer and soft drinks).
 - ✓ Certain expenses for purchases (respectively prices), are seemingly considerably lower than the market prices at the time the interview was

taken, but they still turned out to be truthful, because the purchase was made directly from the producer, which is a rather common practice in the villages and small towns.

- ✓ July and August were months in which certain prices jumped up by 30-40% due to the unusual drought in the country. These were mainly the prices of vegetables, flower, sunflower oil, milk, white and yellow cheese, and some meats.
- ✓ Cases of double recording of consumed products were established.

Most typical is the case with products where one is the raw material for another, home made product.

For example:

- | | | |
|-------------|---|-----------------------------|
| ✓ Milk | ⇒ | yoghurt, white cheese; |
| ✓ Fruits | ⇒ | tinned fruits; |
| ✓ Vegetable | ⇒ | tinned vegetables, pickles; |
| ✓ Flower | ⇒ | baked products; |
| ✓ Grapes | ⇒ | wine, brandy. |

Corrections were made, where possible, to avoid the risk of double recording.

Appendixes to the report:

Appendix 1: Main Questionnaire – Bulgarian version

Appendix 2: Main Questionnaire – English version

Appendix 3: Manual For the Fieldworker and Addendum – Bulgarian version

Appendix 4: Manual For the Fieldworker and Addendum – English version